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STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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Please forward to a friend!

As we approach Memorial Day, let's take time out to remember those veterans who served our country with dignity and honor - who gave their lives so all of us could be free. As you celebrate with parades and backyard barbeques, take a moment to cherish the memory of all the service men and women who proudly served and who exemplify what makes this country great!

Legislative News

Patterson Fights for Consumers

Stronger Punishment for Internet Thieves

Senator Bruce Patterson's legislation that protects consumers while enacting tougher punishments on Internet crooks passed the Senate unanimously. The practice of fraudulently acquiring personal information over the Internet is called **phishing**.

Phishing is a unique form of identity theft where criminals steal consumers' personal identity data and financial account credentials. The schemes use e-mails or pop-up ads to lead consumers to counterfeit websites designed to trick recipients into divulging financial data such as credit card numbers, account usernames, passwords and social security numbers. Because the criminals hijack the names and logos of reputable banks, e-retailers and credit card companies, they convince consumers to respond.

Through Senator Patterson's tough consumer protection legislation, penalties would increase to a maximum of 10 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines from the current five years and \$25,000. The bill also would allow civil actions by the attorney general or the

Internet provider if the phishing site operator did not have the intent to commit identity fraud.

Just since the introduction of Senator Patterson's package of bills, there has been another case of consumer Internet fraud in Michigan. Firststar Credit Union was posing as a legitimate business on the Internet. They are accused of trying to steal consumers' identity and money. The fraudulent financial institution, which advertised in Michigan newspapers, was encouraging customers to apply for loans by providing upfront payments and personal information.

Senator Patterson said, "I was happy to see that my legislation moved quickly through the Senate. My colleagues and I realize that this legislation is important to Michigan citizens, especially in this economy. The Internet thieves see our state as vulnerable and ripe for taking advantage of our residents."

"This legislation is an essential and timely piece of consumer protection law".

Watch Senator Patterson on Comcast Newsmaker program discussing his phishing legislation by following this link:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/webcasts.asp?District=7>

Patterson Stands Up for Tenth Amendment

Resolution affirms Michigan's sovereignty

Senator Patterson introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 that affirms Michigan's sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not enumerated and granted to the federal government. Which when passed, will be sent directly to the President.

The Tenth Amendment, in part, says that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Each State should be able to decide what is best for its people.

Our founding fathers decided that the country would be established on the sovereignty of the states.

"My reasons for so vehemently stating my belief in the Tenth Amendment is that our federal government is becoming oppressive in size and is intruding in our lives," Senator Patterson emphasized. "Our voices need to be heard in Washington, we will not stand by while our rights are stripped away."

Legislation to Keep Jobs in Michigan

Patterson's Bill to License Physical Therapist Assistants

Senator Bruce Patterson's legislation to require the licensure of physical therapist assistants (PTAs) was passed unanimously by the Senate. Senate Bill 151 also establishes professional development requirements for physical therapists and PTAs.

Michigan is one of only four states that do not regulate PTAs. Of the 46 states that regulate PTAs, 38 require them to be licensed. With the passing of this legislation, the talented individuals who chose to be trained as PTAs can be licensed in Michigan and stay here to offer their services.

Because of changes to Medicare regulations, new physical therapist assistant graduates must pass a national exam to provide service to Medicare patients. However, new graduates may only take the exam in conjunction with a license application. Without this legislation, all recent and future PTAs will have to go outside the state to get licensed. This creates the risk of losing talented individuals to other states.

"There is a need for this legislation to keep dedicated and capable professionals in Michigan," said Senator Patterson. "By requiring licensure of physical therapy assistants and establishing professional development requirements, we make certain that patients will have the best care available to them."

Also, this bill would help ensure that payment is received from third party payers. Some insurance companies only reimburse treatment provided by a licensed professional. In the past, this has caused problems for the PTAs, the insurance companies and the patients.

Patterson Supports Ducks Unlimited

License Plate to raise money for nonprofit

Senator Patterson's legislation that offers a Ducks Unlimited fundraising license plate passed the Senate.

Ducks Unlimited is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wetland habitat for waterfowl. Since its formation in 1937, they have conserved approximately 12.3 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States, Canada and Mexico, including over 50,000 acres in Michigan. They have identified the Great Lakes system as a priority for wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

"I am a proud member of the Michigan Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. As a conservationist, I fully support their efforts to make this state and all of North America a better place to co-exist with our feathered friends," Senator Patterson said.

The state does not subsidize the cost of fundraising license plates. Ducks Unlimited would raise the \$15,000 start up fee and then the organization would receive the proceeds from the sale of the plates.



Southgate, MI - Senator Patterson speaking at the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forum on May 18, 2009. This was the Senator's 11th visit to address the chamber.

Useful Information

Foreclosure Assistance

Visit Senator Patterson's website www.senatorbrucepatterson.com to find valuable information regarding foreclosure assistance. Click on the foreclosure brochure. If you would like a hard copy of the brochure, please call Senator Patterson's office at 1-(866) 262-7307.

Watch Senator Patterson in Action

Senate Floor Speeches now available online

Check out a new addition to www.senatorbrucepatterson.com (Click on Video on the left side of the page).

On the Senator's website, you can now see him speak on the Senate floor. Senator Patterson is known for his oratory skills.

At the end of each Senate session, every Senator has the right to speak about an issue that he or she finds worthy of their colleagues' attention. Senator Patterson takes this privilege seriously and only speaks when he feels that there is an important topic that needs defining.

On his website, you can see:

"DUTY is a four letter word" and "The Negative Impact of Mark to Market Accounting"

Senator Patterson takes his job of informing his colleagues as a serious endeavor.

Summer Travel Season has Begun

MDOT's 2009 statewide construction map now available

The annual state highway construction map is now available from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Go to www.michigan.gov/mdot

Around the District

Grant Writing Workshop

Grant Writing USA and the Ann Arbor Community Center will present a grant-writing workshop in Ann Arbor on June 4-5. The training is applicable to city, county and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, K-12 schools, colleges and universities.

Beginning grant writers will learn what they need to be successful and more experienced writers will gain new insights, sharpen skills and leave with a sense of renewed confidence in their abilities and mission.

For more information including venue location, tuition, graduate testimonials and online enrollment, please visit: <http://grantwritingusa.com/>

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via email, please contact my office at

senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

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